(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c). According to information received from the State Governments and the assessment made by the Central Teams, Cyclones and floods from May, 1995 have affected 23 States in varying degrees claiming 2,327 lives, and damaging about 22 lakh houses and crops in an area of about 60.00 lakh ha. The extent of damage was particularly high in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Meghalaya, Orissa, Punjab and West Bengal. The relief measures undertaken by the State Governments include evacuation of marooned people, operation of relief camps, distribution of essential commodities and ensuring health care.

(d) The assistance/relief given to the affected people and farmers vary from State to State. A State Level Committee headed by the Chief Secretary decides the quantum of assistance to be provided to the different categories of people.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Encouragement to the use of Biological Manures

575. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 4080 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th April, 1995 and state whether scientific studies have been made to estimate the loss of fertility of farm soil by the use of chemical fertilizers, if so, what are the findings and if not, whether such a study will be undertaken in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): Yes, Sir; under the aegis of All India Coordinated Research Project on Long Term Fertilizer Experiments of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, changes in soil fertility due to use of chemical fertilisers are being monitored since 1970. Most significant findings of this Project are as under:—

(i) Exclusive use of NP&K chemical fertilizers in intensively cropped areas has affected soil fertility by way of emergence of micro-nutrient deficiencies.

(ii) Continued use of nitrogenous fertilizers in acidic soils, without liming, leads to decline in productivity of soils.

(iii) Balanced and Integrated Use of Chemical Fertilizers and Organic Manure is necessary for increased crop productivity and sustainability of the soil resource base.

125th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

576. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what were the main highlights of the 125th Birth Anniversary of the Father of the Nation celebrated by the country;

(b) what are the main articles and places associated with his life preserved as heritage and what steps have been taken for preservation thereof; and

(c) whether the proposed installation of Mahatma Gandhi's statue at India Gate, New Delhi on 2nd October, 1995 was given up or postponed if so, in what circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF